

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

The current listing of claims replaces all prior listings of claims in this application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A computer program product, tangibly embodied on a computer readable medium, for making a telephone call connection, the computer program product including instructions for causing a home computer to execute a method comprising:

intercepting an incoming call at the home computer in signal communication with a home telephone being called by a caller, wherein the intercepted incoming call is intended for the home telephone, the home telephone of the caller having an associated sign-up calling plan service billed to a home plan at a home plan rate;

prompting the caller with a first service announcement;

in response to the caller replying to the first service announcement and requesting that an outgoing call be made, prompting the caller to enter a personal identification number;

validating the personal identification number and prompting the caller with a second service announcement;

in response to the caller replying to the second service announcement and entering a long distance or international destination telephone number to be called, invoking an outbound call to the destination number;

in response to the destination number being answered for communication with the caller, causing the outbound call requested by the caller to be billed to the home plan of the home telephone at the home plan rate for the caller; and

in response to the destination number being answered, dropping the home computer off line, thereby enabling the caller to communicate with the destination number via the home plan at the home plan rate; and

in response to the caller replying to a third service announcement to initiate a conference call:

receiving a plurality of conference call telephone numbers, each of the plurality of conference call telephone numbers being separated by a designated key; and

causing application software to invoke the conference call to each of the plurality of conference call telephone numbers.

2. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of Claim 1, wherein the invoking an outbound call comprises:

in response to the home telephone being serviced by only one line, invoking a three-way call between the home computer, the caller, and the destination telephone number.

3. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of Claim 1, wherein the invoking an outbound call comprises:

in response to the home telephone being serviced by more than one line, invoking an outbound call to the destination number on another line.

4. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of Claim 1, further comprising:

in response to the caller replying to the second service announcement and entering a plurality of conference call telephone numbers to be called, invoking a conference call between the home computer, the caller, and each of the plurality of telephone numbers, and in response to the conference call connections being made or terminated, dropping the home computer off line, thereby enabling the caller to communicate with the plurality of telephone numbers via the home plan at the home plan rate.

5. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of Claim 1, further comprising:

in response to the caller replying to the first service announcement and entering a call-forward command and a call-forward telephone number, redirecting all calls received at the home computer to the call-forward telephone number.

6. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of Claim 1, further comprising:

in response to the destination number being busy and in response to a prompt from the caller, activating a call-back service, thereby enabling the caller to communicate with the destination number via the home plan at the home plan rate in response to the destination number not being busy.

7. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of Claim 1, further comprising:

in response to the caller replying to the first service announcement and requesting that the incoming call be answered, directing the incoming call to the home telephone in signal communication with the home computer.

8. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of Claim 1, wherein the home telephone is the caller's residence telephone.

9. (Previously Presented) The computer program product of Claim 1, wherein the home telephone is associated with the caller's place of business.

10. (Currently Amended) A computer program product for making a telephone call connection, the product comprising:

a storage medium, readable by a processing circuit, storing instructions for execution by the processing circuit for:

intercepting an incoming call directed to a home telephone being called by a caller, the home telephone having an associated sign-up calling plan service billed to a home plan at a home plan rate;

prompting the caller with a first service announcement;

in response to the caller replying to the first service announcement and requesting that an outgoing call be made, prompting the caller to enter a personal identification number;

validating the personal identification number and prompting the caller with a second service announcement; and

in response to the caller replying to the second service announcement and entering a long distance or international destination telephone number to be called, invoking an outbound call to the destination number, and:

in response to the destination number being answered, disconnecting the processing circuit from the call, thereby enabling the caller to communicate with the destination number via the home plan at the home plan rate; and

in response to the caller replying to a third service announcement to initiate a conference call:

receiving a plurality of conference call telephone numbers, each of the plurality of conference call telephone numbers being separated by a designated key; and

causing application software to invoke the conference call to each of the plurality of conference call telephone numbers.

11. (Currently Amended) The product of Claim 10, wherein the a-storage medium further stores instructions for execution by the processing circuit for:

in response to the caller replying to the first service announcement and requesting that the incoming call be answered, directing the incoming call to the home telephone being called.

12. (Currently Amended) The product of Claim 10, wherein the a-storage medium further stores instructions for execution by the processing circuit for:

invoking a three-way call between a home computer, the caller, and the destination telephone number in response to the home telephone being serviced by only one line, or invoking an outbound call to the destination number on another line in response to the home telephone being serviced by more than one line.

13. (Currently Amended) The product of Claim 10, wherein the a-storage medium further stores instructions for execution by the processing circuit for performing at least one of:

in response to the caller replying to the second service announcement and entering a plurality of conference call telephone numbers to be called, invoking a conference call between a home computer, the caller, and each of the plurality of telephone numbers, and in response to the conference call connections being made or terminated, dropping the home computer off line, thereby enabling the caller to communicate with the plurality of telephone numbers via the home plan at the home plan rate;

in response to the caller replying to the first service announcement and entering a call-forward command and a call-forward telephone number, redirecting all incoming calls to the call-forward telephone number; and

in response to the destination number being busy and in response to a prompt from the caller, activating a call-back service, thereby enabling the caller to communicate with the destination number via the home plan at the home plan rate in response to the

destination number not being busy.

14. (Currently Amended) A specialized home computer in signal communication with a home telephone and for making a telephone call connection, the home computer comprising a processing circuit operable in response to executable instructions for:

intercepting an incoming call directed to the home telephone being called by a caller, the telephone having an associated sign-up calling plan service billed to a home plan at a home plan rate;

prompting the caller with a first service announcement;

in response to the caller replying to the first service announcement and requesting that an outgoing call be made, prompting the caller to enter a personal identification number;

validating the personal identification number and prompting the caller with a second service announcement; ~~and~~

in response to the caller replying to the second service announcement and entering a long distance or international destination telephone number to be called, invoking an outbound call to the destination number, ~~and~~;

in response to the destination number being answered, disconnecting the home computer from the call, thereby enabling the caller to communicate with the destination number via the home plan at the home plan rate;

in response to the caller replying to a third service announcement to initiate a conference call:

receiving a plurality of conference call telephone numbers, each of the plurality of conference call telephone numbers being separated by a designated key; and

invoking the conference call to each of the plurality of conference call telephone numbers.

15. (Previously Presented) The specialized computer of Claim 14, wherein the processing circuit is further operable in response to executable instructions for:

in response to the caller replying to the first service announcement and requesting that the incoming call be answered, directing the incoming call to the home telephone being called.

16. (Previously Presented) The specialized computer of Claim 14, wherein the processing circuit is further operable in response to executable instructions for:

invoking a three-way call between the home computer, the caller, and the destination telephone number in response to the home telephone being serviced by only one line, or invoking an outbound call to the destination number on another line in response to the home telephone being serviced by more than one line.

17. (Previously Presented) The specialized computer of Claim 14, wherein the processing circuit is further operable in response to executable instructions for performing at least one of:

in response to the caller replying to the second service announcement and entering a plurality of conference call telephone numbers to be called, invoking a conference call between the home computer, the caller, and each of the plurality of telephone numbers, and in response to the conference call connections being made or terminated, dropping the home computer off line, thereby enabling the caller to communicate with the plurality of telephone numbers via the home plan at the home plan rate;

in response to the caller replying to the first service announcement and entering a call-forward command and a call-forward telephone number, redirecting all incoming calls to the call-forward telephone number; and

in response to the destination number being busy and in response to a prompt from the caller, activating a call-back service, thereby enabling the caller to communicate with the destination number via the home plan at the home plan rate in response to the destination number not being busy.

18. (New) The computer program product of claim 1, wherein causing the outbound call to be billed to the home plan of the home telephone at the home rate comprises billing the outbound call against a pre-purchased collection of minutes.